IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRT M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum is against the proposal to msrge India Meters Ltd. with another unit.

(c) The matter regarding the merger will be decided by the Department of Company Affairs who will take into account all aspects of the case before arriving at a decision.

Request of Assam Government for Enhanced Oil Royalty

2356. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has been requesting the Central Government to increase the rate of Oil royalty by Rs. 150-00 per MT ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand of Assam Government is less than one third of the demand of the Government of Gujarat ; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS {SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat and Government of Assam have demanded increases in the rate of royalty on crude oil production from Rs. 192-00 per MT to Rs. 683-50 and Rs. 340-00 per MT respectively. The next review ofthe rate of royalty would take into account all relevant factors, including the views of the concerned State Governments.

LPG agencies and Petrol pump Dealerships in Uttar Pradesh

2357. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of L.P. gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships allotted during 1988 in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) when these agencies and petrol pump dealerships were advertised and how much time was taken in the final selection ; and

(c) what are the names of persons to whom gas agencies and * petrol pump dealerships were given in 1988 in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) During the calendar year 1988, 28 LPG distributorships and 47 Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) Dealerships were allotted in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The required information is given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 145].

Subsidy on LPG Cylinders

2358. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of subsidy given by Government on LPG cylinders supplied to the consumers and its percentage in relation to the cost of the LPG cylinder ; and

(b) what is the total amount of subsidy given by Government during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The amount of subsidy on LPG cylinders

(b) Fourteen (14) checks were carried out druring March and April, 1989 when local sale was at it§ peak. During these checks, except for minor difference of 5 to 10 Kg. when loaded trucks were weighed, no other irregularities weie noted.

(c) No, Sir. The company (BCCL) is itself conducting surprise checks periodically by Head Quarters officials, Area officials arid Colliery officials to curb unfair trade.

Permission to Increase Drug Prices

2360. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the bulk drugs where price increase has been granted during 1988 and upto 31st March, 1989 ; arid

(b) what was the price of each of these drugs under DPCO, 1979 and when was that fixed and what is the percentage and increase in*each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO- CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) The details of prices of bulk drugs fixed under DPCO, 1987, data of fixation of price, its earjier prices etc. are given in the annexure. *[See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 146],

Providing Set Offs to Drug Companies

2361. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that set offs have been giveii in the working of overcharging of amounts 'due from drug companies-;

(b) if so, what are the names ofthe companies and drugs in whose cases set offs have been given ;

(c) whether it is a fact that set offs have been allowed contr tO the advice of the'Ministry'of verdict of the Delhi High Court and in violation of prugs Price Control Order, 1979 ; and

.(d) if so, on what basis concessions which are illegal have been given and what steps have been
aken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) to (d) The requ red details shall be col ted and aid on the Table o Rajya Sabha.

Price of Althroc in 500 mg Tablets

2362. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present price of each pack of Althrocin 500 mg Tablets;

(b) whether his Ministry has fixed any price under DPCO, 1979 ;

(c) if so, when and what price was fixed for each pack ;

(d) what is the name of the bulk drug on which this finished medicine is based and when this formulation was introduced ;

(e) whether the Ministry has revised the price of this strength under DPCO, 1987 and if so, what price has been approved ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the producer of this product is also overcharging the price of Megadojj and